

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A method for suppressing  
2   feedback    between    an    acoustical    output    of    an  
3   electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement and an  
4   acoustical   input   of   an   acoustical/electrical   input  
5   converter   arrangement   of   a   hearing   device,~~wherein~~  
6   comprising the steps of  
7           -    converting acoustical signals impinging on the  
8   input converter arrangement~~are converted~~ into a first  
9   electric signal by a controllably variable transfer  
10   characteristic, which is dependent on ~~the~~an angle at which  
11   said [[at]] acoustical signals impinge on said input  
12   converter arrangement;  
13           -    processing said first electric signal~~is~~  
14   ~~processed~~ and applying a resulting signal~~is applied~~ to the  
15   output converter arrangement; and  
16           -    compensating said feedback to be suppressed~~is~~  
17   ~~compensated~~ by a feedback compensating signal, which is  
18   generated in dependency of the resulting signal and is fed  
19   back by a feedback signal path upstream said processing;  
20           wherein further  
21           -    said electric feedback compensating signal is fed  
22   back to and superimposed upon the first electric signal and

23           -       adaptation rate of said converting to variations  
24   of said transfer characteristic is controlled in dependency  
25   of ~~the~~ loop gain along said feedback signal path.

1           **Claim 2 (original):** The method of claim 1, further  
2   comprising slowing down the adaptation rate of said  
3   converting with increasing loop gain along said feedback  
4   signal path.

1           **Claim 3 (currently amended):** The method of claims 1 or  
2   2, further comprising ~~minimising~~minimizing amplification of  
3   said transfer characteristic at one or more specific angles  
4   which accord to angles at which said feedback to be  
5   suppressed predominately impinges on said input converter  
6   arrangement.

1           **Claim 4 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2   ~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, further comprising frequency  
3   selectively controlling said adaptation rate.

1           **Claim 5 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2   ~~claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, further comprising performing said  
3   converting in said first electric signal, and said  
4   processing along said feedback signal path in frequency  
5   domain and controlling said adaptation rate at selected  
6   frequencies in dependency of said loop gain at said

7     selected frequencies.

1           **Claim 6 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, further comprising minimizing  
3 amplification of said transfer characteristic at specific  
4 angles frequency selectively.

1           **Claim 7 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, further comprising performing said  
3 converting into said electric signal independently for  
4 frequencies present in said feedback to be suppressed and  
5 for frequencies substantially not present in said feedback  
6 to be suppressed.

1           **Claim 8 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, further comprising performing said  
3 control of said adaptation rate selectively for frequencies  
4 present in said feedback to be suppressed,  
5           said control comprising switching said converting on  
6 and off for said frequencies present.

1           **Claim 9 (original):** The method of claim 8, further  
2 comprising performing switching from on to off and/or vice  
3 versa steadily during a predetermined timespan.

1           **Claim 10 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, said hearing device being a behind-  
3 the-ear or an in-the-ear hearing device.

1           **Claim 11 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, said hearing device being an ear  
3 protection or a hearing improvement device.

1           **Claim 12 (currently amended):** A hearing device,  
2 comprising:

3           - an acoustical/electrical input converter  
4 arrangement and an adaptive beamformer unit, said  
5 beamformer unit generating at an output an electric output  
6 signal dependent on acoustical signals impinging on said  
7 input converter arrangement and in dependency of an angle  
8 at which said acoustical signals impinge, said beamformer  
9 unit having a first control input for varying beamforming  
10 characteristics;

11           - a processing unit with an input operationally  
12 connected to the output of said beamformer unit and with an  
13 output operationally connected to an input of an  
14 electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement; and

15           - a feedback compensator unit, ~~the~~an input thereof  
16 being operationally connected to said input of said  
17 electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement, an  
18 output thereof being operationally connected to the input

19 of said processing unit;  
20 ~~and~~ wherein further  
21 - said beamformer unit has a second control input  
22 for adjusting adaptation rate,  
23 - said output of said feedback compensator unit is  
24 operationally superimposed with the output of said  
25 beamformer unit,  
26 - said feedback compensator unit has an output for  
27 a loop gain indicative signal, being operationally  
28 connected to said second control input of said beamformer  
29 unit.

1 **Claim 13 (original):** The device of claim 12 being a  
2 behind-the-ear hearing device or an in-the-ear hearing  
3 device.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** The device of one of claims 12 or  
2 13, being a hearing protection device or a hearing  
3 improvement device.